

Agency: Department of Natural Resources**Project Title:**

Totem Bight State Park Totem Pole Access Road

State Funding Requested: \$ 25,000
One-Time Need**House District: 1 - A****Brief Project Description:**

Safety reinforcements to access road allowing for safe maintenance by park personnel.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$25,000**Funding Secured*Amount FY*Other Pending Requests*Amount FY*Anticipated Future Need*Amount FY*

There is no other funding needed

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Item is \$25,000 to repair access road to Totem Bight State Park in Ketchikan. The park is home to one of the largest concentrations of totem poles in the world; and is an extremely popular site for tourists. The cultural significance of the area makes maintenance of the totem poles an important issue for the park. Currently maintenance is done by artisans and park staff on scaffolding. This funding would repair and widen the road and allow access to lift equipment and provide for safer maintenance of the totem poles. Funding would also reinforce the lawn surrounding the totem poles by installing a geo-block surfacing beneath the grass. This will allow equipment to drive on the grass, similar to high use areas like the White House lawn or national mall. Improvements will allow for better maintenance of this important area; and safer conditions for park staff and visitors.

Project Timeline:

FY09

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Alaska State Parks or Designee

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

FY 2009 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
For Ketchikan Area State Parks
Submitted By Ketchikan Area State Parks Advisory Board

Respectfully to be submitted to the Alaska Legislature Delegation:

Project: Infrastructure Support at Totem Bight State Historical Park

Project Summary and Overview: The project is to improve and remedy issues with the Volunteer Caretaker housing, Ranger Office and Shop and upgrade with Water & Septic at Totem Bight State Historic Park. The total funding assistance requested in this project group is \$175,000 for Ketchikan District-Alaska State Parks. Totem Bight State Historical Park is the only park in the Alaska State Park system that is dedicated to SE Alaska Native Culture. It is one of Ketchikan's major attractions and contributes to the economic vitality of the community, and provides a source for commercial utilization. It is also the headquarters for the 8 park units in the Ketchikan District, and is the contact point for visitors.

Project Funding Specifics:

The old park office would be rebuilt to consolidate living quarters for volunteer caretakers, the park office and a visitor contact station for the public. A shop would share a common wall that would be a barrier firewall with no through access, but that would have access from a separate entrance outside. This could also serve as dry storage for janitorial supplies such as cases of toilet paper. The shop will be brought into OSHA compliance with an air filter system and a heat source. This multi-purpose facility would be upgraded to have both a water and septic system so that staff and volunteers have running water, showers and restroom facilities. Electrical outlets would be brought up to code. Currently the office is without these common place amenities, and is substandard for working conditions. There are not enough electrical outlets to accommodate all the utility needs.

The current office and maintenance shop is the headquarters for the 8 area state parks. The small 10' x 20' ranger office serves as a visitor information & permitting office, the ranger office, a meeting & conference area, access to the 20'x 20' shop, and as a lunch area for 3-4 staff and up to 4 volunteers daily during the summer. Besides not having basic water and septic amenities, it is inadequate in its ability to provide efficient service to the public and to accomplish day to day chores without interruption. There is no privacy for important phone calls, teleconferences, or for completing complex work or writing projects.

Ketchikan District State Parks maintains a steady volunteer staff of about 3 volunteers to every paid employee. Volunteers are required to provide their own on-site housing which limits the pool of applicants. Volunteer park caretaker coverage could also be provided during the winter months if on-site housing were provided. A volunteer caretaker included at the office headquarters would provide additional security to the 3-4 million invested at this site.